



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (GAC)  
TO THE DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**

**May 19, 2015**

The Governor's Advisory Council to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services met on May 19, 2015, at the 1056 Woodbrook Conference Room in Dover.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Terri Hancharick, Chair  
Thomas Rust  
Timothy F. Brooks, Ed.D.  
Angie Sipple

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jamie Doane

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jane Gallivan  
Marie Nonnenmacher  
Vicky Gordy - minutes

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Susan Pereira, Parent

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** June 16, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Council approved April 21, 2015 minutes.

***GAC changed future meetings standing timeframe to 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.***

Introductions were made due to a first time guest in attendance.

**Update from CMS GAC Transition Plan Working Groups**

The Day Services Work Group has extended meetings by a half hour by beginning at 9:30 a.m. Council member revealed that the Day Services Work Group has spent much time during two meetings discussing the topic of transportation to voting polls. It was determined that "voting" should be addressed in the residential assessment due to logistics of poll locations (day services individuals residing in multiple polling districts). The Day Services Work Group continues to review draft for duplicate questions and continues review of other states information. Plans for next meeting include wordsmithing and organizing the order of questions. Work Group continues to struggle with developing one assessment for all services or creating individual assessments for support employment, day habilitation, etc. Council discussed the possibility of creating a single instrument that has columns and/or headings that identifies a specific service type that would be answered by provider agencies who provide the identified service.

Council member reported that the Residential Services Work Group has been making progress. Member will share residential information distributed to other Council members. A draft assessment was sent that will be reviewed during the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Reportedly, some of the questions are controversial for some Work Group members. List of action items have been sent to Work Group members by chairperson, weekly. The Residential Services Work Group anticipates meeting the determined target date of June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Reportedly, Connecticut's statewide transition plan has gotten preliminary approval but has not received the official letter from CMS to date. CMS did not require the transition plan to include assessments and will not approve assessment tools. Minor preliminary questions from CMS regarding Delaware's statewide transition plan have been received, mostly surrounding timeframes. Reportedly, on a recent call, CMS revealed assessments should be completed within six months of transition plan submission. Therefore, all assessments must be completed no later than September 17<sup>th</sup>. The longer it takes to complete will shorten the time for provider agencies to complete/conduct surveys. DDDS may need to eliminate the pilot and invest in good training surrounding conducting surveys.

There is a strong possibility that the assessments being developed by GAC Work Groups will be used statewide due to strong similarities DDDS has with other divisions included in the statewide transition plan. DDDS has included many stakeholders who services cross over as well. DDDS has concerns that the statewide transition plan may potentially have consequences to services for the elderly, physically disabled, and individuals with brain injuries. All states must become compliant with "CMS Community Rule" by March 2019.

At a recent Governor's Commission for Community Based Access meeting (held on May 15<sup>th</sup>), a discussion surrounding Council voluntary participation was had. Marie Nonnenmacher, DDDS Deputy Director publicly acknowledged all the voluntary work the DDDS GAC has put forth during meeting. Other divisions are also recognizing the DDDS GAC contributions. DDDS Director, Jane Gallivan thanked and commended the DDDS GAC for their work and active participation as it speaks volumes of the dedication to all involved.

The Council discussed how in the past some Sussex County families involved in the autism community felt their family member is safer in a large day habilitation facility that provides door-to-door transportation for individuals. In addition, a concern to families is that smaller programs capacity fills quickly which limits options. DDDS understands that it is a risk for families in terms of employing family member, especially if an unsuccessful employment attempt was experienced. Although challenging to coordinate, DDDS revised services approximately two years ago, that provided the opportunity for individuals to receive day habilitation services and employment services simultaneously. Families need to understand that funding is assigned to the person (not the provider agency) to choose type of service/services to utilize funding.

One Council member discussed how in the '70's, individuals with severe disabilities seemed to be hidden from society and that the most benefited outcome from DDDS changes are that individuals are engaging in the community, meeting and getting to know people who see them as human beings. This is extremely important, not only for now but for people in the future who require DDDS services. DDDS concerns continue for children that are not mainstreamed by attending segregated school programs. The Chair of Council began discussions with Senator Poore to develop a group to plan on how to get

appropriate IDD supports in public schools to assist families in locating resources that will open up the PTA to embrace people with IDD as well.

Council discussed how the Cape Henlopen School District ADAPT program in Sussex County is very involved in getting children into the community. Recently, an incident involving an individual eating lunch while accompanied by their job coach was asked to move from a public bench in a shopping center that was reported upon by the locale newspaper and on social media. Integration into the community “takes a village”. Local citizens who want to make this happen must connect with city officials to question what is happening locally to integrate IDD citizens in the community. The vision of what life can be is limited due to people not seeing how integration can work.

### **Budget**

DDDS was directed and submitted justification for each of DDDS items in the FY16 Governor’s recommended budget. DDDS also made recommendations to adjust DDDS base budget. Projections were higher than need, therefore a reduction of the annualization of special school graduate funding was recommended. DDDS with much trepidation reduced the requested 75 residential placements to 70, and provided an impact statement as to why this would be challenging for DDDS. Other minor reductions included not annualizing the \$300,000 one-time DART fare increases from provider rates in FY15 budget that would not affect current rates. One time funding not allocated during FY15 was submitted to offset current fiscal year deficit.

DDDS continues work to complete the Family Support Wavier that will be submitted on June 1<sup>st</sup>, although DDDS is unsure if funding will be approved. DDDS may move this forward with minimal funding although without positions to actual manage the program that is projected to support 900 individuals the program would fail. Reportedly, due to the design of the Family Support Waiver, it is expected to have a “shelf life” of several years.

Planning process for families will continue due to being a significant need to families and to the DDDS system. This project is low in cost (mostly cost neutral). DDDS will continue to seek targeted case management to improve system in an effort to provide families support to navigate system. In many instances, support opportunities are available unbeknownst to families.

Beginning July 1, 2014 through the end of May 2015, 230 people were found eligible for DDDS services (people found eligible may not be in DDDS service system yet but gives a sense of the amount of growth DDDS experiences). If there is no ability to add support through respite or family support, less funding is be available due to distributing to all individuals.

### **GAC Membership**

DDDS responded to an e-mail sent by Families Speaking Up regarding Council membership. Nominees (one resides in Kent County; one in New Castle) submitted application and are currently under consideration.

Title 29 of the Delaware Code §7910 Advisory Council to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services was distributed to Council.

## **Vacancies & Development Report**

The Governor's Advisory Council Vacancies and Development Report was reviewed. Currently there are 29 vacancies statewide (2.9%); 15 in group/neighborhood homes (4 are ARC homes) and 13 in CLA's. Since FY15 began, 58 individuals were placed, 19 have chosen placement site and are in process of being placed within the next five weeks, 60 are shopping for placement in various stages of process, and 39 individuals (which is high) were placed at emergency temporary living arrangements (ETLA). Some ELTA placements consist of individuals who have received funding/shopping letter for placement but required emergency placement before choosing residential provider. Others required emergency placement via APS. DDDS believes the target of placing 75 individuals will be met this fiscal year.

**Stockley Center Update:** DDDS has continued to provide placement opportunities to individuals supported by Waiver programs on Stockley Campus. DDDS is working to provide a New Castle County location for two women. One young man who has been re-located for a short time period is reportedly doing wonderful as evidenced by him sleeping in his bed and beginning to speak as while at program on campus he slept in a reclining chair and was non-verbal.

Stockley Center staff members are doing a wonderful job of relocating residents of the assistant living program on Stockley Campus that initially supported 15 individuals that are not eligible for DDDS services. Currently, the program supports two individuals. One individual was denied placement at the Veteran's Home due to not meeting intermediate level of care requirement and is currently awaiting appeal. Due to a unique medication regimen, locating placement for the other individual is presenting challenges. Employees are thinking creatively for placements ideas as DDDS is supporting the 9000 square foot structure with staff for two individuals.

Adele Wemlinger does wonderful work in her role as Director of Stockley Center and works closely with family members of individuals supported by Stockley Center. Occasionally, new individuals are admitted to Stockley Center for rehabilitation and return home once completed. One individual was admitted for rehabilitation that transitioned to a long-term placement at family's request. DDDS is currently reviewing Stockley Center admission language.

## **Electronic Case Record Kickoff**

The Core Solutions Electronic Case Record Kickoff meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2015; the Council Chair was invited to participate. Once more information is available, DDDS will give an overview of system to Council.

## **Announcements and Informational Items**

A small discussion surrounding DART suspensions was had by Council. Council member revealed that DART conducts interviews with individuals before being "certified" to participate in DART Paratransit services. The Council Chair reported that Bonnie Hitch, ADA Eligibility/Compliance Manager with DelDOT attended a meeting recently and revealed that transportation of individuals is currently in transition.

A DDDS/DSAMH sponsored daylong presentation by David Pitonyak is scheduled to take place on May 28, 2015 at the DDDS Fox Run site. David is a dynamic speaker and wonderful storyteller. The presentation theme is "The Importance to Belonging" and his belief is that loneliness is the only disability. The reason DDDS collaborated with the mental health system relates directly to their work

surrounding people living with mental illness and how loneliness affects their lives in terms of segregation. DDDS will inquire with Mr. Pitonyak regarding the possibility of videoing his presentation for future use at Council's request. Council members were invited to attend.

The Council discussed and reviewed pertinent Delaware information from "The State of the States" report using data from 2013. Surveys are completed yearly. DDDS improved the reporting of accurate data. Much of the information is pulled from submitted federal reports. One cost driver in Delaware is that 98% of people that are supported by DDDS are living in residential settings such as foster homes, community living arrangements or group homes with only 2% in supported living (people living in own residence with drop in supports). DDDS has had a decrease in people moving into shared living, which also increases cost.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.